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From the Arator.

PREMIUM ESSAY ON CORN.

We have been politely furnished, by R. A. HAMILTON, Esq., President of the Granville Agricultural Society; Dr. R. C. PRITCHARD, President of the Warren Agricultural Society, and Col. Jos. A. WHITAKER, President of the Franklin Agricultural Society, with the following valuable Premium Essay, by Dr. S. G. WARD, of Warren, submitted at the Union Agricultural Fair in Henderson, on the 10th of October last. The public spirited Societies, at whose heads stands these intelligent and patriotic gentlemen, united in holding that fair, and we cannot but feel gratified that they have made our paper the vehicle of presenting this important Essay to the public. We hope our readers will study it carefully and profit by the wholesome instruction with which it abounds.

THE PREMIUM ESSAY,

ON THE PREPARATION OF LANDS—THE BEST MODE OF CULTIVATING CORN, AND SAVING FODDER.

Published by order of the Presidents of the Granville, Warren and Franklin Agricultural Societies.

ALL stiff, stubble, and soddy lands, intended for corn, should be subsoiled at least 8 inches deep, the previous fall, or in early winter: immediately after which it should be horizontalized with ditches, having sufficient fall for the rains to keep them open—if the soil is not too subject to gully; and likewise to drain the land of a superfluity of water; so as to enable the action of the elements to disintegrate, and fertilize the soil, as well as to kill the eggs of worms and insects during winter.

Just before planting, the land should be laid off into rows, with a bull-tongue plow, 5 feet apart, perfectly horizontal, for the purpose of retaining the light showers of rain; permitting as many of them as practicable to empty into the upper side of the ditches, in order to part with the heavy ones. Then it should receive broadcast, at least 200 lbs. of Peruvian Guano to the acre—or as much bone dust, stable, hogpen, or compost manure, as will enable the land to produce an abundant crop of corn—if it is not rich; as it is impossible for it to yield corn without its component elements are present, or put into the soil. Twenty-five per cent, of Plaster Paris, or fresh Charcoal pulverized, will fix the ammonia in the guano, and stable manure likewise, (if it is not permitted to escape by its accustomed exposure to rain and heat,) and render them vastly more productive and permanent; and as much ashes, or lime should be added in forming the compost.

While the fertilizer is being cast on the land, it should be bedded with the largest size single horse, (approved) cast plow, that turns well; and then run the plow up and down in the water furrow, taking from the ridge on either side, enough earth to form a soft bed for the corn, as well as to raise it above the damp, and sufficiently high to work to the young plant. Open the same with a duck bill-hoe, armed with wooden mould boards, long enough to make a drill 6 inches wide, and 2 deep, for the reception of the kernels, which should be dropped 3 feet apart, two grains in the hill, and covered 1 inch deep only, with a board, attached to a plow-hoe helve, about 10 inches long, and scooped out below.

High land corn should be planted by the 25th of March in this latitude. Soon as it is well up, it should be sided with a Colter, 6 or 8 inches wide from wing to wing, and sharp in front, to prevent covering the young blades; and the earth thoroughly loosened around the corn with light and narrow hilling-hoes, and thinned out to one stalk at the same time. Soon as the grass appears on the beds, and immediately after every heavy rain, if possible, harrow the beds with Sinclair's "Five tooth expansive Cultivator," which will gradually level them, by filling up the corn furrow. By the 1st of July the corn should have a thin flat hill.

Rich, and fresh lands, require another weeding between the stalks, and around stumps.

Corn should be planted, worked, and laid by early.

Light and sandy soils need not be subsoiled until planting season, as they are not subject to bake; and the benefits to be derived from the chemical action of the

air and frost on such lands, will not remunerate for the extra plowing.

Wet, low or high lands, should be deeply subsoiled when the weather is dry in fall, and thrown up into high beds of 5, 10, or 20 feet width, with deep water-furrows between, running into a drain-ditch on the lowest side of the field. The manure should be applied on the beds, broadcast, just before reversing them for the reception of the seed corn.

All fertilizers, especially coarse ones, should be applied broadcast; so as to become thoroughly incorporated with the soil, in order to afford a uniform and constant supply to the thousand little corn roots that ramify the earth in every direction in search of food.

When manure is deposited in the hill, the corn grows rapidly, until the tap and brace roots cease to be absorbers; after which it perishes, or produces but a small nubbin; as the runners cannot find more nutriment than will sustain the extravagantly raised stalk, and consumption of a July's sun.

As the virtue of manures resides in their salts, and volatile qualities, it is obvious that they should be deeply deposited, and remain undisturbed; therefore the system of thoroughly plowing the land from three to five times during the growth of the corn, is not only destructive to the land and manure, but equally injurious to the corn, by constant laceration of its tender root, and exposing them to a vertical sun. We might as well expect to fatten an animal by repeated venesection, or increase the volume of a river by cutting off its branches, as to calculate upon making a crop of corn, of a dry year, by thus tearing its roots with the plow. Hence the wretched, and dwarfish appearance of the fields in our country, which will not yield more than was consumed in preparing the land.

The cultivator leaves the corn roots and manure, undisturbed in the beds; and as once going over the bed with it, is equivalent to four or five furrows of the common plow, we are thereby able to break the crust of the land often, which is all important in clayey, and adhesive soils; as the health of the plant like that of an animal, depends much on its breathing freely.

This plan of cultivation will, almost to a certainty, produce an abundant crop of an ordinary dry year, on half the land usually tilled; and leave the labor, and nett proceeds of half the hands, horses, lands, and food, to buy guano, or raise manure.

Corn should not be gathered until the cob shall have shrunk enough to permit the grains to unite firmly; as it is subject to be damaged by heat, and the weevil, if pulled before; but it may be cut and stacked after the first frost, with but little loss—early corn by the 1st of October.

Fodder cannot be stripped from the stalk with impunity to the corn, until the corn begins to harden; as the functions of the leaves of the plants have been aptly compared to those of the lungs of a man—and as indisputable experiments have amply proven, that the loss in the corn amounted to a larger per cent than is saved by gathering the fodder too early; it is all important, therefore, to make the state of the corn, instead of the fodder, the test of the time for pulling it. "Dry silks, and rotting fodder, are no criterion, as they are often the premature result of drought, or too much rain. In damp and cloudy weather, fodder may be gathered, and attached to the stalk, by a single tie, with one of the withered blades, (without breaking it from the stalk,) which is then strong and pliable, without much, if any loss of time; as it can be collected, when cured, as fast as the hands can walk, without stooping, and tied up much earlier in the morning and afternoon, in consequence of its uniform order, and is not subject to be blown away and soiled with dirt and rain. It should be housed, and closely bulked down, as it loses much of its weight and flavor by exposure in stacks.

In extenuation for the length of this Essay, we plead the importance of its subject to the welfare of our community; as failures to make supplies of corn, have done more to depopulate our State, than all other causes combined. But for your limited time, we should have enlarged upon each head; and as deep plowing has lately been mooted in this section only,

likewise to have given the philosophy of its power for absorption and retention of moisture, and endurance in rainy seasons, as well as to have invited your consideration to the susceptibility of a field thus leveled by this plan of cultivation, for rest, fallow or improvement, and for the reception of peas, and the cereal grains, especially wheat, which may be put in with the "Joint Cultivator" without pulling the corn. And as experience is the most persuasive and reliable argument, also to have reported, in detail, in confirmation of this plan, a crop thus cultivated, which will compare favorably with any; though it had no help from manure; suffered drought of three weeks duration in its roasting-ear state, and its full share from the ravages of the chinch bug.

Respectfully submitted.

S. G. WARD.

October, 1855.

"The loss in the corn is reported to be one-sixth of the crop. See September No. of the "Arator."

"JUST THE THING."

Adherence to a particular policy merely for the sake of consistency, is as degrading as slavish obedience to the behests of leaders without regard to reason or justice. When convinced of error, it is a solemn duty to change one's opinions; but that change should be accompanied with a frank and open admission and renunciation of the error. To cloak or to defend an error when convinced that it is an error, is to maintain consistency at the expense of honesty; and to pursue opposite courses at various times, where principles are involved, and to declare that each is right, is the acme of knavery.

When Know-Nothingism sprung up in the country, it was a universal panacea for all the political ills to which the country was subject. Its secret feature, especially, was a capital hit—"just the thing" demanded by the exigency of the times—nothing like it. We mean that this was the position of that party after they were driven to acknowledge their connection with it; for, at the very first, they swore lustily that they "knew nothing" about it.

Time wore on. Virginia and North Carolina make a new move in the matter; and they who but lately swore lustily that secrecy was "just the thing," now as solemnly repudiate secrecy and glory in their pretensions of openness and candor! From their leading organs who cut work to be done by their underlings, down to the lowest hiring scribblers who prate Know-Nothingism "for a consideration," the cry goes up of Knows Nothing frankness and candor—"just the thing." All this, too, while acting with the K. N's. of all the other States who still adhere to secrecy. So far from renouncing secrecy as an error, they themselves continue to cloak and defend it during its existence among them, but now claim that it is no longer necessary, and that publicly is at present "just the thing." Indeed, everything they may do is "just the thing." Know-Nothingism has no equal, no rival, except in the patent medicines of the day. Each is an universal panacea—that is, according to the quacks who get them up.

But a calm and thinking people will coolly ponder over these things, and determine for themselves whether this batch-work—this jumping from one point to another—is the work of statesmen or of journeyman politicians.

A Prussian paper says that a short time ago a man was placed in a lunatic asylum at Berlin, to be treated for mental alienation, brought on by the use of hair dye. On examining the dye which he had employed, it was ascertained to be composed of lead, mercury, and lunar caustic. It produced violent pains in the head, and at length led to madness.

FOOD SPECULATORS.—Good apples are sold in the northern part of Middlesex county, Mass., for ninepence a bushel. In New York city apples are sold at twenty-five cents a peck and potatoes at fifty to eighty cents a bushel. A farmer in the interior of New Jersey says that he will bury his thousand bushels of potatoes as they will not bring him three shillings a bushel at home. So long as a combination of food speculators, backed by extraordinary facilities, stand between us and the farmers, there is no hope of moderate prices.

TASTES DIFFER.

In a lecture on what he has seen abroad, Wendell Phillips observes:

In Italy you will see a man breaking up his land with two cows, and the root of a tree for a plough, while he is dressed in skins with the hat on. In Rome, Vienna and Dresden, if you hire a man to saw wood, he does not bring a horse along. He puts one end of the saw on the ground and the other on his breast, and taking the wood in his hands, rubs against the saw. It is a solemn fact that in Florence, a city filled with the triumph of art, there is not a single augur, and if a carpenter would bore a hole he does it with a red hot poker. This results not from the want of industry but of sagacity of thought. The people are by no means idle. They toil early and late, men women and children with an industry that shames labor-saving Yankees. Thus he makes labor, and the poor must live. In Rome charcoal is principally used for fuel, and you will see a string of 20 mules, bringing little sacks of it upon their backs, when one mule could draw all of it in a cart. But the charcoal vender never had a cart, and so he keeps his mules and feeds them. This is from no want of industry, but there is no competition.

A Yankee always looks haggard and nervous, as if he were chasing a dollar. With us money is everything; and when we go abroad we are surprised to find that the dollar has ceased to be almighty. If a Yankee refuse to do a job for fifty cents he will probably do it for five. But one of the lazaroni of Naples, when he has earned two cents and eaten them, will work no more that day if you offer him ever so large a sum. He has earned enough for the day and wants no more. So there is no eagerness for making money, no motive for it and every body moves slowly.

A GOOD CONSCIENCE.

The conscience alone is good which is much busied in self-examination, which speaks much with God. This is both a sign that it is good and the means to make it better. That soul that is thus occupied, is in its own way, a happy one. It is a good thing, and renders up that account unto God. It will not live by guess but naturally examine each step before-hand, because it is resolved to examine all after-ward; will consider well what it should do because it means to ask over again what it hath done, and not only answer itself but to make a faithful report of all unto God; to lay all before him continually, upon trial made; to tell him what is in any measure well done as his own work, and bless him for that; and tell him, too, all the slips and miscarriages of the day as our own complaining of ourselves in presence, and still entreating free pardon, and living more holily and exactly, and gaining even by our failings, more humility and more watchfulness. If you would have your consciences answer well, they must inquire and question much beforehand. Whether is this I purpose and go about, agreeable to my Lord's will? Will it please or profit myself? Fits that my own honor? And examine not only the bulk and the substance of thy ways and actions, but the manner of them, how thy heart is set. So, think it enough to go to church, or to pray, but take heed how you hear; for, consider how pure He is, and how piercing his eye, whom thou servest.—Leigh-ton.

INFANTICIDE.—On Sunday afternoon, suspicion of foul play having been aroused, after diligent search, the dead body of an infant was found in the woods in the rear of Mr. Miller's new building, in Winston, with a large pin sticking in its head. A Coroner's Jury was immediately summoned, and the result of the inquest held over the body was, that the infant came to its death by violence. Dr. Zevely was also called upon to examine the body, who corroborated the fact, and pronounced it a clear case of murder.

Suspicious circumstances then caused the arrest of Emily Cornish, a single woman, living with the family of William Bowles, and confined to her bed at the time, when sufficient evidence was adduced before the Magistrate's Court to commit the said Cornish, Wm. Bowles and wife, and Elijah Tucker, to prison, to await their trial at our next Superior Court.

We understand that Bowles and wife are principally charged with having been aware of the situation of Emily Cornish, and concealing the fact. The parties, we learn, also gave contradictory statements of the case, but we forbear going into particulars, as the matter will undergo judicial investigation.—Salem Press.

BENEFIT OF LIFE INSURANCE.—William Charles, Esq., who was killed on the 19th of last month, near Elizabeth City, was insured for \$5,000 for seven years in the Mutual Life Insurance Company of this City. His policy had been renewed only two days before his death. Circumstances occur almost daily showing the prudence and wisdom of life insurance.—Standard.

THE "NIGGER" A GREAT "INSTITUTION."—The New Orleans Crescent throws off the following pointed paragraph concerning the slavery system of the South:

The "nigger" is a great, in fact, a stupendous institution. He answers a three-fold purpose and that is more than many white men are capable of. In the first place, he sows, hoes and gathers in a product which clothes a world; which has made Massachusetts rich and saucy—better than her neighbors; which enables England to carry on the war against Russia; which supplies France with the sinews of conflict, and which helps Christian nations to cut each other's throats, by furnishing the raw material indispensable to the prosecution of multifarious branches of industry.

Secondly, our cotemporary says, the nigger serves the purposes of the abolition agitators of the North; and thirdly, the secession fire eaters of the South, which is true. We must admit it. Dispense with the "nigger" and the stock of trade of these ultras of both sections is gone. Common charity, therefore, to the abolitionists and the secessionists, requires that the institution should be kept up. Thousands of philanthropic demagogues of the North, who live upon the sufferings of "Uncle Tom," and the credulity of benevolent political women and sickly fanatics, would be thrown out to starve or to steal if the "nigger" were abolished. He is, in fact, a great "institution," and he must be kept up to regulate the currency. Keep Cuffee to the cotton field, We can't do without him.—N. Y. Herald.

A Good Man's Wish.—I freely confess to you that I would rather, when I am laid in the grave, some one in his manhood would stand over me and say, "There lies one who was a real friend to me, and privately warned me of the dangers of the young; no one knew it, but he aided me in the time of need. I owe what I am to him." Or I would rather have some widow, with choking utterance, telling her children, "There is your friend and mine. He visited me in my affliction, and comforted me, and was an angel, and you, my daughter, a happy home in a virtuous family." I say I would rather that such persons should stand at my grave, than to have erected over it the most beautiful sculptured monument of Parian or Italian marble. The heart's broken utterance of reflections of past kindness, and the tears of grateful memory shed upon the grave, are more valuable, in my estimation, than the most costly canotaph ever reared.—DR. SHARP.

The immense wealth of the West is being almost monthly developed. It is but a few years since that the country bordering on Lake Superior was considered a "wilderness waste," but now its mines are looked upon as of the richest kind, not in gold and silver, but in copper and iron. The yield of copper for the year 1855 will be about 10,000,000 lbs., worth at present prices, over \$1,600,000.—It is also the greatest iron ore region in the world; it is found in greater or less purity in every part of that section of the country.—Boulders of iron are also found scattered over a vast extent. These productions, with the facilities by water of getting them to the Atlantic, will make that country compare favorably with the grain growing sections of the East, and cotton and sugar lands of the South. A great country, this.

The Cotton Crop.—There is every appearance that the cotton crop this season will far exceed that of any previous year. Estimates vary, but they are all high, from 34 to 34 millions bales. The receipts at the ports are in excess, as compared with last year, 269,000 bales, but there is a decrease, as compared with 1852, of 28,000 bales. The export to Great Britain is 128,000 bales in excess of last year. To France a larger share than usual is going, being 22,000 in excess of last year, and 45,000 in excess of 1852. To continental ports there is also an excess over any of the last four years. Southern cotton markets appear to be all advancing, though the receipts are reported large.

Great Profit on Whiskey.—The present price of raw whiskey in Louisville (according to the Courier of that city) is 34 cents per gallon, which yields an enormous profit to the distiller. He pays 30 cents per bushel for his corn, (new corn,) grinds out about four hundred bushels per day, which makes upwards of sixteen hundred gallons of new whiskey, or rather more than four gallons to the bushel. Thus, a bushel of corn costing 30 cents yields to the manufacturer upwards of four gallons of whiskey, which at 34 cents per gallon amounts to the snug sum of \$544 per day. The net profit on this single day's work of converting corn into whiskey is fully \$250, or upwards of \$1,500 per week.

NO SECTS IN HEAVEN.  
The celebrated Whitfield, when preaching on one occasion from the balcony of the Courthouse, in Philadelphia, cried out, lifting his eyes to Heaven: "Father Abraham, who have you got in your bosom? Any Episcopalian? No!" "Any Presbyterian? No!" "Any Baptist? No!" "Have you any Methodist there?" "No!" "Have you any Independents or Seceders?" "No!" "Why, who have you, then?" "We don't have these names here; all here are Christians—believers in Christ." Oh is that the case! Then God help us all to forget party names, and to become Christians in deed and in truth.

SAM'S PEDIGREE.—The Know-Nothing gas-bags are blowing considerable about Sam know nothing's pedigree. The Rev. Mr. Hardface has recently written something which essays to be in the pedigree of the young mushroom, which has been published by the know-nothing papers. We give the following extract from his family record, and vouch for its accuracy. Look at it and read: THE RECORD.

In 1782, Federalists.  
In 1783, Cow Boys.  
In 1787, Convention Monarchists.  
In 1784, Black Cockadeers.  
In 1808, Anti Jefferson Imprisonment Men.  
In 1811, British Bank Men.  
In 1812, Peace Men.  
In 1813, Blue Lights.  
In 1814, Hartford Conventionists.  
In 1816, Wash. Benevolent Society Men.  
In 1818, No party Men.  
In 1820, Federal Republicans.  
In 1826, National Republicans.  
In 1834, Whigs.  
In 1837, Conservatives.  
In 1838, Abolition Whigs.  
In 1839, Democratic Whigs.  
In 1840, Log Cabin and Hard Cider Men.  
In 1844, Clay Whigs.  
In 1847, Anti-American, Anti-war Whigs.  
In 1851, Rich Irish Brogue Whigs.  
In 1852, God and Liberty Whigs.  
In 1854, know-nothings.  
In 1855, Fusionists.

THE WORK COMMENCED.  
We understand that the Dredging Machine and a number of men have arrived, at Nag's Head, for the purpose of commencing the work of opening the Inlet there, under the appropriation of \$50,000 made by the last Congress.—Dem. Pioneer.

—W. H. Smith, a naturalized citizen, residing in New Orleans, has brought suit in the fourth district court against James Beggs and Erasmus Wells, two of the Judges of the election in that city for rejecting his vote at the late election.—He claims \$5,000 damages.

BORROWING TROUBLE.  
The newspaper called the "State of Maine," published at Portland, since the following is a specimen of the propensity of some people to be distressed by imaginary evils:

"Borrowing is a bad thing at best, but borrowing trouble is perhaps the most foolish investment of 'foreign capital' that a man or woman can make. An amusing instance of this species of 'operation' is set forth in a down east newspaper, wherein a man thus related his experience in a financial way on the occasion of the failure of a local bank: 'As soon as I heard of it my heart jumped right up into my mouth. Now, thinks I, 'posin' I got any bills on that bank! I'm gone if I live—that's a fact!'—So I put on my coat and put for home just as fast as my legs would carry me; fact is, I run all the way, and when I got there I looked keenly and found that I hadn't got a bill on that bank—or any other!—Then I felt easier.' There have been a thousand instances of 'borrowing trouble' when it was not a whit better secured than in the present example.

AN Editor out West gives the following notice: "Our purse is lost! The finder is requested to return it, being careful not to disturb its contents, which were a brass rule, a piece of leaf tobacco nicely twisted, the stump of a cigar, and a very good leather string."

A doctor has returned a coat to a tailor, because it did not fit him. The tailor afterwards seeing the Doctor at the funeral of one of his patients remarked to him: "Ah, Doctor, you are a happy man." "Why so?" "Because when you do a bad job you stick it under the ground."

WIFE WANTED.  
Here's a chance, Gals! He talks to the point! Means what he says! Address him at Batesville, Ark.: "Any gal what's got a bed, a coffee pot, and a skillet, knows how to cut out britches, can make a huntin' shirt, and knows how to take care of children, can have my services until death parts both of us." JOHN C. SCHMIDT.

A Midshipman asked a Priest to tell the difference between Priest and a Jackass. The Priest gave it up. "One wears a cross on his back and the other on his breast," said the Midshipman. "Now," said the Priest, "tell me the difference between a Midshipman and a Jackass." The Midshipman gave it up, and asked what it was. The Priest said he did not know of any.

What is a coquette? A young lady of more beauty than sense; more accomplishments than learning; more charms of person than grace of mind; more admirers than she can fool than wise men for attendants.



It is due however to candour, to state that if the creed of the Universalist embraces a denial of all accountability, and punishment in the next world for sins committed in the body, and unrepented of and unatoned for at death, he is not a competent witness as the law now stands in North Carolina, according to my opinion. Punishment, as well as reward, in

or remarks that every man's reputation for solvency was a matter of public discussion connected with the commercial business of the country, and if a publication, such as that charged to have been made in the defendant's newspaper, was made from good motives, and without malice, and that the party made all the reparation in his power afterwards, the jury might well refuse to give damages, or give merely nominal damages. Newspapers in these days have become the chronicles of all public events, and whatever is proper for business men to know the editor being guarded in his manner of stating facts; and publishing nothing but what he supposed at the time he had good authority to state he would have no right to publish in his newspaper. But if he published anything of this kind wantonly, unnecessarily, and with an intention to injure, he would of course be liable. If he published anything merely as the business history of the day, and what was supposed to be the common understanding or general report in the community, the implication of malice would be rebutted from the circumstances in the case.

In the present case, the Court could not set aside the verdict of the Jury, as they

comply with his cherished object of their hearts are ready if needs be to perish with us. These questions the South can decide but it must decide now. Let the editors of the South speak out upon the question."

which, after alluding to the attacks of the London press, he says: "Pray tell your friends not to judge of the opinions of England by the newspapers. \* \* \* There is no power on earth, with which we are more anxious to be on terms of friendly alliance than the United States."

[Boston Transcript November 26th]

"Cold morning Bob! Yeas and cold comfort, living with this darn 'Maine licker Law

mon yield, and one field, owned by Dr. William Ragen, of Washington county, made one hundred and twenty-two bushels per acre.

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JOHN RICE, Adm.  
April 27, 1855.